

# Senate Study Bill 3155 - Introduced

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON QUIRMBACH)

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the state preschool program for  
2 four-year-old children by establishing a preschool expansion  
3 incentive and authorizing state aid for the incentive.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256C.3, subsection 4, unnumbered  
2 paragraph 1, Code 2014, is amended to read as follows:  
3 Effective with the budget year beginning July 1, 2015, each  
4 school district shall implement an approved local program  
5 to provide preschool in accordance with this chapter. The  
6 state board shall adopt rules to further define the following  
7 requirements of school districts implementing the preschool  
8 program:

9 Sec. 2. Section 256C.3, subsection 4, Code 2014, is amended  
10 by adding the following new paragraph:

11 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. Development and implementation of a plan  
12 for the school district's preschool program to have sufficient  
13 capacity to operate without a waiting list for school budget  
14 years beginning on or after July 1, 2017.

15 Sec. 3. Section 256C.4, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code  
16 2014, is amended to read as follows:

17 b. The enrollment count of eligible students shall not  
18 include a child who is included in the enrollment count  
19 determined under section 257.6 or a child who is served by  
20 a an existing preschool program already receiving state or  
21 federal funds for the purpose of the provision of providing  
22 four-year-old preschool programming while the child is being  
23 served by the existing program. Such preschool programming  
24 However, the enrollment count of eligible students may include  
25 a child being served by an existing preschool program if  
26 the preschool programming in the existing program has been  
27 enhanced as a result of preschool program expansion incentive  
28 state aid provided under section 256C.7. For the purposes  
29 of this chapter an "existing preschool program" includes but  
30 is not limited to shared visions and other child development  
31 assistance programs provided under chapter 256A and section  
32 279.51, special education programs provided under section  
33 256B.9, school ready children grant programs and other programs  
34 provided under chapter 256I, and federal head start programs  
35 and the services funded by Tit. I of the federal Elementary and

1 Secondary Education Act of 1965.

2 Sec. 4. Section 256C.5, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph  
3 1, Code 2014, is amended to read as follows:

4 For the purposes of this ~~section and section 256C.4 chapter,~~  
5 unless the context otherwise requires:

6 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. **256C.7 Preschool program expansion**  
7 **incentive.**

8 1. For the purposes of this section, unless the context  
9 otherwise requires:

10 *a. "Base incentive enrollment"* means the average of the  
11 actual enrollments of eligible students in the preschool  
12 programming provided by a school district on October 1, 2011,  
13 October 1, 2012, and October 1, 2013.

14 *b. "Incentive period"* means the budget years beginning July  
15 1, 2015, July 1, 2016, and July 1, 2017.

16 *c. "Incentive enrollment"* means the amount by which the  
17 actual enrollment of eligible students in the preschool  
18 programming provided by a school district on October 1 of  
19 the base year exceeds the school district's base incentive  
20 enrollment.

21 *d. "Incentive state aid"* means the product of twenty percent  
22 of the regular program state cost per pupil for the budget year  
23 multiplied by the school district's incentive enrollment in the  
24 base year.

25 2. *a.* A preschool program expansion incentive is  
26 established in accordance with this section. In order to be  
27 eligible for the incentive, a school district must develop and  
28 implement a preschool program expansion plan, approved by the  
29 department, to expand enrollment of eligible students in the  
30 school district's preschool programming. In addition, the  
31 school district shall work with existing preschool program  
32 providers to expand hours and otherwise enhance the preschool  
33 programming available to the children participating in the  
34 programs. The plan's goal shall be that by the end of the  
35 incentive period the district's preschool programming will

1 be available without a waiting list to each child wanting to  
2 enroll in the programming.

3     *b.* The elements addressed in the preschool program expansion  
4 plan shall include but are not limited to the following:

5       (1) How the school district will work in collaboration with  
6 participating families, early care providers, and community  
7 partners, as described in section 256C.3, subsection 3,  
8 to provide the preschool programming in as convenient and  
9 cost-effective a manner as possible for the families of the  
10 four-year-old children who are eligible for the programming.

11       (2) A specification of the roles of the early care providers  
12 and community partners in support of the expansion plan.

13       (3) A delineation of the specific steps for expanding hours  
14 and otherwise enhancing the preschool programming available to  
15 the children participating in the existing preschool programs  
16 located in the school district.

17       (4) Identification of specific outcomes and progress  
18 measures for the expansion plan.

19       (5) Detailed plans for contacting and soliciting enrollment  
20 of eligible students, particularly from low-income families,  
21 non-English speaking families, and families from ethnic and  
22 racial groups underrepresented in the district's preschool  
23 program enrollment.

24     3. The department of education shall specify other  
25 requirements and required elements for preschool expansion  
26 plans and for approval of plans by the department, including  
27 but not limited to submission provisions, annual updates, and  
28 documentation of collaboration efforts with and input from  
29 participating families, early care providers, and community  
30 partners.

31     4. During the incentive period, in addition to the  
32 regular preschool foundation aid based on the preschool  
33 budget enrollment, the school district implementing a  
34 preschool expansion plan approved by the department shall  
35 receive incentive state aid based on the district's incentive

1 enrollment. The incentive state aid shall be paid as part of  
2 the state aid payments made to school districts in accordance  
3 with section 257.16.

4 5. A school district shall utilize its incentive state aid  
5 to defray increases in costs in connection with the school  
6 district's preschool program expansion plan. Such costs shall  
7 include but are not limited to renovation and other facility  
8 costs connected with expansion, outreach, one-time expenses,  
9 and other costs identified as eligible by the department.

10 Sec. 6. Section 257.16, Code 2014, is amended by adding the  
11 following new subsection:

12 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. For the fiscal years in which the  
13 preschool program expansion incentive applies in accordance  
14 with section 256C.7, the appropriation made in subsection 1  
15 shall include the amount necessary to pay incentive state aid  
16 in accordance with section 256C.7. This subsection is repealed  
17 on July 1, 2018.

18 Sec. 7. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance  
19 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring  
20 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall  
21 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid  
22 received by the school district under section 257.16. This  
23 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed  
24 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of  
25 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding  
26 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act  
27 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school  
28 districts.

29 EXPLANATION

30 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
31 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

32 This bill relates to the statewide preschool program for  
33 four-year-old children by establishing a preschool program  
34 expansion incentive, including authorizing state aid for the  
35 incentive.

1 Code section 256C.3, relating to preschool program  
2 requirements, is amended to require each school district to  
3 provide a preschool program approved by the department of  
4 education, effective with the school budget year beginning July  
5 1, 2015, and to implement a plan for the school district's  
6 preschool program to have sufficient capacity to operate  
7 without a waiting list for school budget years beginning on or  
8 after July 1, 2017.

9 To be eligible for the preschool expansion incentive,  
10 a school district must develop and implement a preschool  
11 expansion plan, approved by the department, in order to expand  
12 enrollment of eligible students in the school district's  
13 preschool programming. Requirements for the plan are  
14 provided in the bill, including how the school district will  
15 collaborate with participating families, early care providers,  
16 and community partners to expand the district's preschool  
17 enrollment. The department of education is to specify other  
18 requirements for the plan and for approval of plans by the  
19 department.

20 Current law in Code section 256C.4 prohibits inclusion  
21 in the preschool program of children already included in a  
22 school's enrollment count for purposes of the school aid  
23 foundation formula or children who are served by an existing  
24 preschool program already receiving state or federal funds for  
25 the purpose of providing four-year-old preschool programming  
26 while the child is being served by the existing program. The  
27 bill allows inclusion of children participating in an existing  
28 program if the preschool programming in the existing program  
29 has been enhanced as part of the expansion incentive.

30 The incentive program will operate for the three school  
31 budget years beginning July 1, 2015, July 1, 2016, and July  
32 1, 2017. For those three budget years, a school district is  
33 eligible to receive incentive state aid for the increase in  
34 the actual enrollment of eligible students in the preschool  
35 programming provided by a school district in the immediately

1 preceding school year over the base incentive enrollment.  
2 The base incentive enrollment is the average of the actual  
3 enrollments of eligible students in the school district's  
4 preschool programming on October 1, 2011, October 1, 2012,  
5 and October 1, 2013. The amount of incentive state aid is  
6 equal to 20 percent of the regular program state cost per pupil  
7 multiplied by the enrollment increase.

8 The incentive state aid is required to be used to defray  
9 increases in costs in connection with the school district's  
10 preschool expansion plan. Such costs may include renovation  
11 and other facility costs connected with expansion, outreach,  
12 one-time expenses, and other costs identified as eligible by  
13 the department.

14 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
15 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of  
16 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school  
17 district from state school foundation aid received by the  
18 school district under section 257.16. The specification is  
19 deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate  
20 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
21 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
22 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
23 mandates included in the bill.